

Appl. No. 10/024,713

Amndt. dated June 23, 2004

Reply to Final Office Action of February 24, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been carefully considered in light of the Final Office Action of February 24, 2004. In the Final Office Action claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 12-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 887,356 to Straub.

Claims 3, 4 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious and an patentable over the reference to Straub when further considered in view of EP 288334 to Ducrue.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 7 is only objected to and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the indicated allowability of the claim 7, both claims and 1 and 15 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 7. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that both independent claims should now be in condition for formal allowance, which action is solicited.

As this response is being filed after the shortened statutory period, a separate request for a one month extension of time is submitted herewith. Any deficiencies in the extension fees may be charged to the deposit account number 04-1577.

It is respectfully submitted that this amendment after final

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be entered as reducing issues and as placing the Application in  
condition for formal allowance. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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Date: June 23, 2004

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